

MEMORANDUM

Clallam County Department of Community Development

TO: Interested Agencies

FROM: Bruce Emery, Senior Planner *BE*

RE: Elwha River Ecosystem Restoration Project, SHR2007-00003

DATE: January 26, 2007

The purpose of this memorandum and attached information is to provide notice and request agency input on the following described proposal on behalf of the national Park Service:

Shoreline Substantial Development, Conditional Use, Variance, and Critical Areas Reasonable Use Exception Permit Application No. SHR2007-00003 – Elwha Ecosystem Restoration Project, National Park Service, Applicant: The applicant is seeking approval to conduct a restoration project of the Elwha River ecosystem. The over-all project includes a range of related, smaller projects primarily intended to address mitigation of anticipated impacts resulting from the phased removal of the existing dam structures. The elements of the project generally include the removal of Elwha and Glines Canyon Dams and the resultant release of approximately 8.5 million cubic yards of accumulated river sediments; removal of an existing rock diversion dam; construction of a new fish friendly diversion and temporary diversion channel; flood protection for public and private facilities due to anticipated increase in water surface elevations; and protection and improvement of existing municipal and community water systems infrastructure within the project area. While the over-all project will result in a significant net environmental benefit, several of the related individual projects will include identified impacts. Therefore, the proposal will also include several measures intended to mitigate identified on-site impacts. Only those project elements that are within the jurisdictional limits of the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program, Critical Areas Ordinance, and/or Zoning Code, are being considered under this permit application review. On June 13, 2006, the Clallam County Responsible Official issued a Threshold Determination of Significance (DS) and Notice of Adoption of an existing NEPA Document pursuant to WAC 197-11-360 and 600, for the project proposal. The project area under consideration of this permit application includes that portion of the Elwha River corridor and adjacent uplands extending from the Olympic National Park Boundary to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, also being described as portions of Sections 27 and 34, Township 31 North, Range 7 West, W.M.; and portions of Sections 2, 3, 10, 15, 28, and 33, Township 30 North, Range 7 West, W.M.

The Clallam County Department of Community Development, Planning Division, has scheduled a public hearing before the Clallam County Hearings Examiner for February 14, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 160 of the Clallam County Courthouse, 223 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362, to receive public testimony concerning the above-referenced application. The Department will accept written comments on this application until the close of the public hearing on February 14, 2007. Following the close of the public hearing, the Hearing Examiner will issue a decision of approval, approval with conditions, or denial. The final action of the Hearing Examiner may be appealed to the Board of Clallam County Commissioners no later than 14 days after the date of mailing the decision to parties of record. Project information can be reviewed on-line at <http://www.nps.gov/olymp/naturescience/elwha-restoration-docs.htm>. For other project details, or information on appeal procedures and fees, contact the Department at 223 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362. Interested parties are invited to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Hearing Examiner for the record.

The attached information includes excerpt from the JARPA application submitted on behalf of the national park Service, and represents those components of the larger project that are subject to Clallam County review and approval. A reference map and summary table of the project descriptions and related County permits are also provided. The referenced permit requirements will be considered under one consolidated review during the February 14th, 2007 public hearing.

Should you have any questions regarding the hearing process, staff analysis, or other issues concerning this application, please contact me at (360) 417-2358, or send me an e-mail at bemery@co.clallam.wa.us.

c. Correspondence
Project file: SHR2007-00003

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